THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing a welfare scheme for the artisans of the khadi sector, including khadi weavers, namely, "Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana" with effect from 2003-04.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for formulation of a new welfare scheme for the weavers of the khadi sector, namely, "Workshed Scheme for Khadi Weavers and Artisans". The scheme is in the conceptual stage and drawn on the lines of one under implementation in the Ministry of Textiles for the benefit of handloom weavers.

New rail lines in Karnataka

1468. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new rail lines during 2006-07 have started in Karnataka;

(b) the present status of Gulbarga and Bidar line; and

(c) the details of budgetary funds provided during 2007-08 for this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new rail line project falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka is sanctioned during 2006-07.

(b) This project has been taken up on 50% cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. On this project, land acquisition, earth work and bridge works etc. for part length have been taken up.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 20 crore has been provided for this project during 2007-08. Government of Karnataka has been requested to release sufficient fund out of their share, at the earliest.

Pending projects

1469. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects pending in respect of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) the reasons of delay in the implementation of these projects; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Project-wise details of ongoing railway projects of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and railway electrification falling fully/partly in the States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are as under:-